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Sanitary report from Habana.

HABANA, February 18, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for the week ended Thursday, February 17, 1898, with a table showing the mortality for that period in the city of Habana and town of Regla. The mortality of the week shows a marked decrease, compared with previous weeks:

But one death occurred from yellow fever, and that one in a military hospital. Smallpox has attacked the patients in several of the civil hospitals, where pauper patients are cared for. The two hospitals known as the Mercedes and Quinta del Rey are badly infected.

There is evidently an outbreak in the institution known as Aldecoa, which many of the reconcentrados are housed.

But few deaths have occurred among the portion of the pauper classes until recently, and unless effective measures not often adopted here are taken, a high death rate from the disease will follow, as these people possess but little vitality.

Deaths from intestinal diseases are decreasing somewhat, and there is evidently a larger and better supply of food here now than at any time during the past six months.

The disaster to the U. S. S. *Maine* occurring in this harbor Tuesday night, which caused so many serious injuries and deaths to her crew, made it necessary to offer our services to Captain Sigsbee, the commanding officer, as soon as possible. I instructed assistant sanitary inspector D. E. Dudley to report to Surgeon Heneberger, of the *Maine*, for duty, and finally, at the request of Captain Sigsbee, I instructed him to proceed to Key West on the steamship *Olivette* to care for the injured men sent on that vessel.

I have offered our services and the use of the naphtha launch *Gamma* for any future emergency and it was used to-day to convey 10 of the injured men from San Ambrosio Hospital to the light-house tender *Mangrove*. This vessel also proceeded to Key West.

In this connection I would state that no mattresses, bed clothes, or clothing of any description from this hospital were allowed to go on either vessel, and I would further add that in the removal of any more men from this hospital that they be sent to Dry Tortugas instead of to Key West. San Ambrosio is an antiquated stone structure situated within 100 yards of the Tallapiedra Wharf; it has been used for years as a military hospital, and in my opinion is badly infected with yellow fever, and it would be most imprudent to allow nonimmune patients from there to proceed direct to any port in the United States at any season of the year.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BRUNNER,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

NOTE.—Request has been made, through the Surgeon-General of the Navy, that Surgeon Hennenberger, attached to the *Maine*, confer with Sanitary Inspector Brunner with regard to all precautions necessary to be taken to prevent the conveyance of epidemic diseases to the United States, particularly to southern ports, through the medium of wounded or other persons leaving Habana for the United States. Instructions

have been sent to Captain Sigsbee of the *Maine* that if any more wounded are to be sent away from Habana they shall go to Tortugas.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

Mortality of the city of Habana and town of Regla for the week ended Thursday, February 17, 1898.

Cause of death.	Habana.	Regla.	Total.
Yellow fever.....	1	.....	1
Enteric fever.....	13	.....	13
Pernicious fever.....	8	.....	8
Malarial fever.....	14	5	19
Smallpox.....	12	.....	12
Enteritis.....	60	9	69
Dysentery.....	44	22	66
Diarrhea.....	5	3	8
Caquexia paludica.....	10	1	11
Pneumonia.....	7	.....	7
Tuberculosis.....	58	6	64
Meningitis.....	6	1	7
Deaths from all causes.....	331	59	390
Deaths in military hospitals.....	84	42	126
Deaths in military hospitals from yellow fever.....	1	0	1
Annual ratio per 1,000.....	.....	.....	101.40

[Inclosure No. 2.]

Number of persons applying for passenger certificates.

	Granted.	Refused.
Florida:		
Key West.....	21	.....
Tampa.....	48	.....
New York (Ward Line).....	19	.....
New Orleans.....	14	.....
Total.....	102	.....

Sanitary report from Santiago.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *February 12, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor of submitting the following report on the sanitary condition of Santiago de Cuba for the week ended February 12:

Ninety-three deaths have been reported, 5 more than last week. Of these 4 were from tuberculosis, 7 from dysentery, 6 from enteritis, 3 from typho malaria, 10 from pernicious and 8 from remittent fevers, 27 from anæmia and dropsy; the rest from noncontagious or noninfectious diseases.

No cases of yellow fever have been reported and no deaths from it have taken place for the last two weeks. Malarial fevers of all kinds prevail epidemically, but we expect to subdue the epidemic with the quinine sent from the United States, and by enforcing strict hygienic measures, such as perfect cleanliness of the streets and burning all the refuse matter from houses, stables, etc.

Respectfully,

Dr. H. S. CAMINERO,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.